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ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS
THE DIRECTOR OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
~~PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD~~
WASHINGTON

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Review of this document by CIA has
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☐ It contains information of CIA
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☐ It contains nothing of CIA interest
Date 4-26-80 Reviewer

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Robert Amory
DDI, Room 222
Administration Bldg., CIA

SUBJECT: Intelligence Support for OCB Working Group engaged in
implementing project entitled "Winter of Discontent in
the Soviet Far East"

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1. The above working group held a meeting this week to discuss
ways and means of implementing the plan concerning factors of potential
discontent in Communist China and recommended that the intelligence
community undertake the following measures:

a. current intelligence on the subject
of "Winter of Discontent", and institute an intelligence collec-
tion plan with follow-up to secure additional intelligence on
this subject.

b. Prepare an intelligence estimate on the effects of
existing food conditions on future political and economic
capabilities of the Communist China regime.

2. The following information has already been submitted to the
working group as a synthesis of the intelligence relating to flood
and drought conditions over the past year in China:

"Last summer it was reported that 5 provinces in China
experienced abnormal late frost that destroyed about 75% of
all crops planted in an area covering approximately 2500
square miles. In another instance, droughts and insects were
reported to have destroyed crops over a wide area. In general,
these adverse conditions last summer were estimated to have
affected a population exceeding 10 million people. These con-
ditions caused the Chinese Communist regime to allocate an
estimated 900,000 tons of food stuffs to the famine-stricken
areas, which doubtless caused a serious drain on existing food
stock piles of the State."

In addition, the following abstract of an OCI report was disseminated
to the working group:

"There has been a decline recently in the amount and
quality of food in Shanghai and other cities, according to

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the Consulate General in Hong Kong. The current harvests in Northeast China have fallen below last year's level. This constitutes a major economic setback to the Peking regime, CIA comments. OCI 0356, 2 December 1953."

It is requested that my office be advised of any additional information in the intelligence community which would be of interest to the working group engaged in implementing the project "Winter of Discontent".

This information would be for the purpose of exploiting the long-term aspects of the problem confronting the working group.

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